Response to the Rejections

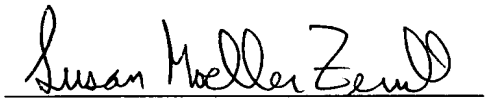
1. Rejection for obviousness type double-patenting

The present claims were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness type double-patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,664,315, the parent to this divisional application. Applicants request withdrawal of this basis for rejection as the parent application had been subject to a restriction requirement in which Group III was elected. The present claims are Group IV from that restriction requirement. Thus, this obviousness-type double patenting rejection is not properly made in this case.

2. Rejection of Claims over Balogh

The present application has a priority date of September 5, 1997. This is before the filing date of January 13, 1998 for the Balogh reference. Thus, Balogh is not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), (b) or (e) against the present claims and this basis for rejection should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,



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